groups of representative non-governmental organizations to prepare and oversee the implementation of national strategies for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. In addition to its consideration of the role of the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly will no doubt wish to make a similar recommendation to all Member States.

The ICFTU Executive Board stressed three points of principle for integrated and comprehensive implementation at the United Nations level, called for by the Summit itself. These are that:

(a) The high-level political commitment of Member States should be continued through ministerial involvement in whatever United Nations body is charged with oversight of the follow-up of Copenhagen;

(b) The United Nations and relevant specialized agencies should work together in a coherent and coordinated way to ensure that each organization's special responsibilities will be linked together to support national follow-up efforts;

(c) The social partners and other main groups of non-governmental organizations should be closely associated with the follow-up work of the United Nations.

The ICFTU Executive Board took particular note of paragraph 95 (f) of the Programme of Action which, among other things, calls upon the Economic and Social Council "to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development including considerations of the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the need for synergy with other related commissions and conference follow-up". In our view a relaunching of the Commission for Social Development with specific terms of reference to act as a focal point for a regular review and follow-up would provide a cost-effective method of ensuring that the three main points for effective United Nations action stressed by ICFTU are as follows:

The Commission for Social Development would provide a meeting point for ministers, the executive heads of the various international agencies and the social partners and other major groups of non-governmental organizations to review progress and plans. Its major role would be to ensure that opportunities for synergy were identified and exploited, thus maintaining the political momentum imparted by Heads of State and Government in Copenhagen.

In this respect we urge the Economic and Social Council to give particular attention to paragraph 100 of the Programme of Action. For example, the Council should establish a small special panel of high-level advisers to the Commission, drawn from the international trade unions and employers' organizations and other major groups of non-governmental organizations, taking into account the need for regional and gender balance and the representativeness of the different non-governmental organizations. ICFTU, for its part, would be ready to recommend trade union representatives to serve on such a panel, thus enabling its extensive world-wide network of affiliates to help the United Nations to link international, regional and national follow-up action.

A reinvigoration of the Commission for Social Development should also be seen as providing a vehicle for bringing together the work of the United Nations regional commissions envisaged in paragraph 95 (h) of the Programme of Action.

ICFTU welcomes the proposals in paragraph 95 (g) of the Programme for joint meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. ICFTU trusts that the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other specialized agencies will take up the invitation of the Summit to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action. ICFTU further encourages these organizations, in particular UNDP, to involve national and local trade union organizations and other non-governmental organizations in their projects. Given the significance of action at workplaces all over the world to the elimination of poverty, the creation of employment and social integration, the special emphasis given to the role of the ILO in follow-up is particularly appropriate. The Director-General of the ILO and the Ministerial Level Tripartite Meeting of 9 June 1995 have reinforced the leading role the Organization needs to play in follow-up action.

ICFTU is acutely aware that the implementation of the political commitments reached in Copenhagen will require both better use of existing resources and the mobilization of new resources. Improvements in the means available to the United Nations for the integration and coordination of international follow-up to Copenhagen must be cost-effective. Avoiding duplication of activities and improving coordination between different ministries and international agencies can help to ensure that the largest possible amount of scarce development resources is concentrated on people and communities in need. A coherent follow-up, in which Governments, the social partners and major groups of non-governmental organizations, build on the sense of solidarity in the face of common challenges - which was an underlying theme of the Copenhagen Summit - is a way forward to ensuring that the means are found to match the priorities agreed by Heads of State and Government.

The international trade union movement through ICFTU made a major effort to help to make the Copenhagen Summit a success. We are equally committed to the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action. The United Nations and Governments need partners to achieve the goals for social development identified in Copenhagen. By recognizing the significance of workers' basic right to trade union representation, the Summit has encouraged us to take up the challenge of helping Governments and the United Nations to realize the Copenhagen commitments.